The Progressive Review

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Thinking about zoning

One of the most neglected tools for social change in America is the zoning law. Zoning is a creature of this century, but in that relatively short period it has gained almost sacred status in political discourse, which is to say that its principles are not discussed.

Though introduced as a reform, zoning has often been manipulated to provide vast profits for a small number of developers or, in the alternative, to serve the cause of social exclusion.

Too often, when it has protected the weak, it has been changed, perverted by spot rezoning in such guises as planned unit developments and air rights or by massive rezonings in the fraudulent name of economic and social progress.

Strangely, despite their enormous influence on how we live -- in both large and small communities, the principles underlying our system of zoning have seldom been publicly questioned or examined. It is a given that even the most radical activists appear to accept save for its most local and specific applications.

But zoning involves far more than what is going to happen to that block down the street. It is a entire system of social organization and, given its revered position, virtually an appendix to the Constitution. If we look around America and ask why things are they way they are, we can not hope for a reasonable answer unless we spend some time on the issue of zoning.

A figment of the imagination

The odd thing about zoning is that it is basically a figment of someone's imagination. As Carl Bergman wrote here fifteen years ago, zoning rights are created "out of thin air." How much and what you can put on a piece of land is, under zoning, determined not empirically but, as Bergman put it, by "nothing more than an educated guess about how things should be developed." The manner in which this guess is derived ranges in many cases, and particularly in American cities, from the corrupt to the arrogant. The role of zoning in former is legendary, but the presumption of a handful of self-perpetuating 'experts' determining the proper shape of a community is no less damaging. Even at its most benign, zoning is, in the words of one architectural critic, "attuned to preventing evil rather than encouraging good."

Bergman's solution to this problem was based on the one piece of empirical evidence we have about every parcel of land in the country: how it is currently being used. He proposed urban zoning based on that use.

Recognizing that there would be cases where the present use was undesirable or 'under-utilized,' he would let a city make such a determination, but the presumption

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would be in favor of the community as it is.

Knocking out speculation

Current use zoning would knock the props out from under real estate speculation, which gets its impetus from feudal grants of thin air from politicians to those they wish to favor. Much of urban commercial speculation is based on the potential for changes to or exceptions from current zoning. When developers say they can't afford to build on a piece of property unless the zoning is changed, what they are really saying is that they paid more than the property was intrinsically worth on the bet that the zoning *would* be changed. Oddly, the task of not making these developers look like fools has been willingly accepted by local governing bodies, and even citizen opponents of development projects often fall for the argument that property values can have some mysterious momentum independent of permitted use. In fact, if the developers knew that the zoning couldn't be changed easily, the property values would quickly fall to a level commensurate with the permitted use.

When a community changes zoning, or exempts a parcel from some of its restrictions, it is giving away public property as much as if it disposed of town recreation and park land gratis to developers. That we can not see and feel what has been given away may bemuse us, but there is little doubt that real estate developers, at least, know what it is and what it is potentially worth.

Imagine that your town or city were to grant you and your neighbors the right to build 15 stories atop your homes. You would suddenly become immensely wealthy persons -- major players as they say.

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But where would this wealth and power come from? In precisely the same way it comes to professional developers, from an arbitrary license to make money when others are prohibited from doing so.

Further, it can only be arbitrary. If the granting of thin air were too well distributed, the value of the grant would diminish with the saturation of the market.

Thus, zoning policies serve as important redistributors of wealth, but in the wrong direction. In many American cities, furthermore, they are probably the most dramatic and important manifestation of corruption. They are not viewed that way for the simple reason that we have declared zoning manipulation legal even though it suffers from many of the same faults as more familiar forms of corruption.

Current use zoning would take the false value out of thin air. The mere presumption that the need for change must be proved would return an immense right to Americans. Restoring the sanctity of one's home and neighborhood would be one of the most valuable social and political policies of a time that is reeling under the pressure of those who have seized the prerogative to make money out of changing where and how we live. As Bergman asked, "Why should (a city) think of itself as something still waiting to be developed when it already is?"

Shifting the battle

Ending the feudal manipulation of zoning would not end zoning controversies by any means, but it would at least change the context in which they were discussed. We could move the debate to where it should be: what physical rules should we have to make our community work well for all of us? What changes do we want to make in the way our community is physically organized?

Under use zoning, these changes could be directed more easily away from the profits of the few and towards the will of the many. There is no suggestion here that this would be simple, uncontroversial or immune from manipulation itself. Only that it might be better than the current situation.

Consider, for example, the question of where city-run group homes of various sorts should be located. Under current zoning principles, there is a

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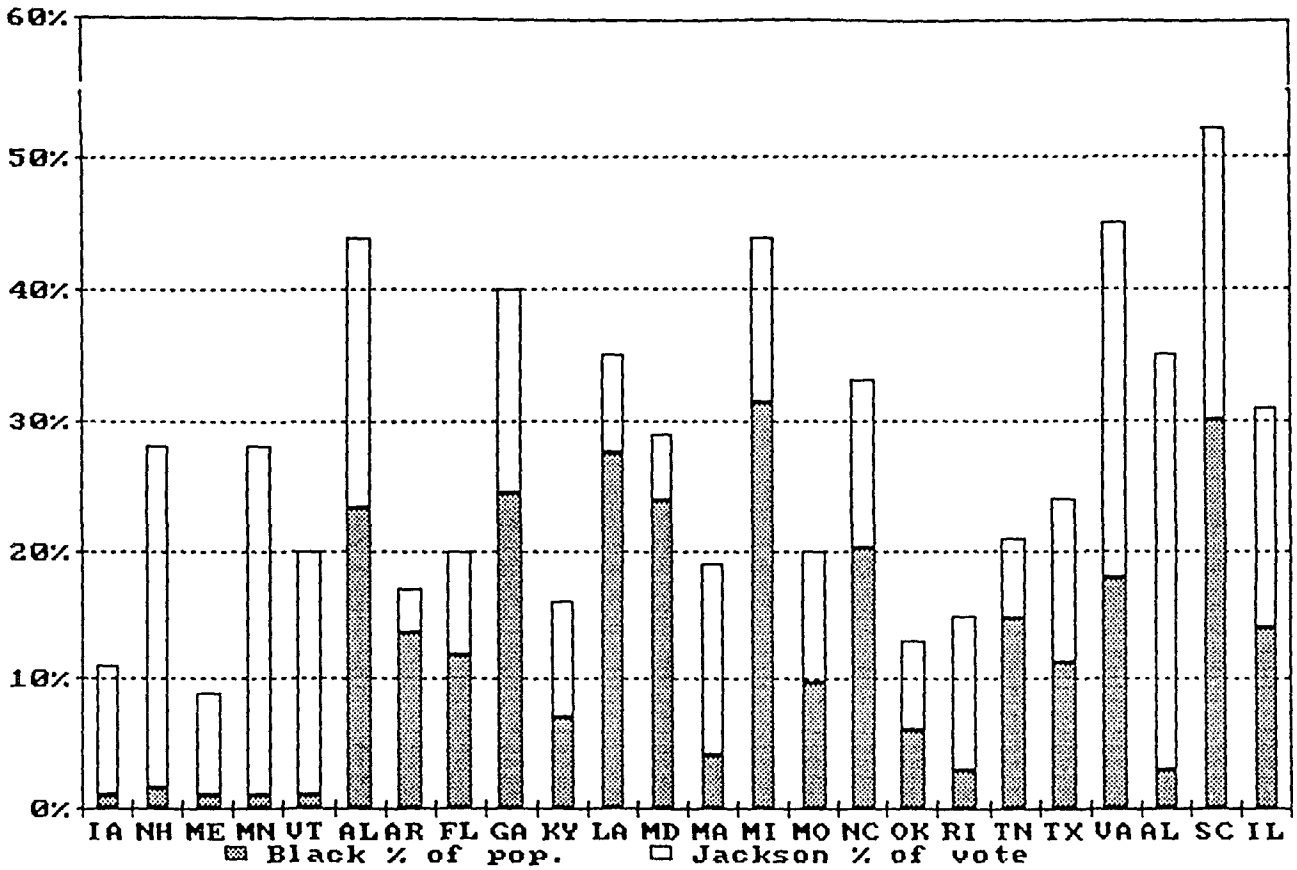
built-in bias against putting these homes in 'nice' residential districts, where they would conflict with the zoning. Under use zoning, *any* change conflicts with current zoning so a greater parity is achieved among the neighborhoods of a city. In fact, it becomes no longer a zoning matter, it is no longer an issue of what some planner thought X years ago should be allowed in a particular neighborhood. It is simply the question that should have been asked in the first place: where should we put group homes? We can no longer hide beneath often discriminatory provisions concealed behind bland wording in our zoning codes.

That even use zoning could be manipulated, however, can be seen in

Jackson & the White Vote



The chart above shows how successful Jesse Jackson has been in creating a bi-alliance. The chart shows Jackson's total percentage of vote compared to the percentage of the population in each primary through Illinois.

Although the media has lessened its stereotyping of Jackson, it still underpla extent that Jackson has broken new ground for a black candidate and obscur importance of the populist groundswell this year. The real story of the Jackson ca is the level of disaffection with mainstream politics among both white and black v The media, with its sinistraphobia (that's a neologism for *'fear of the left'*), just believe that this country might actually be moving to the left.

Jackson may well have achieved something else as well. Black politics has been in ethnic parochialism that has only worked in places with comfortable black major such as major cities. Jackson's success may convince other black politicians to ajority coalitions even where blacks are not in the majority. It is worth noting ho Jackson did in Virginia, which has a black lieutenant governor who may well be th governor. The results suggest that white, as well as black, stereotypes can fall wayside with the help of a little electoral experience.

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the proliferation of *planned unit developments* that make a mockery of existing zoning restrictions under the pretext of providing amenities to a community. The planned unit development -- a project that is at variance with existing zoning but approved on the often spurious grounds of its alleged merit, is perhaps the single greatest development scam conceived in the last decade or so. One of the problems with current use zoning is that every exception would be, in effect, a planned unit development and subject to similar manipulation.

Another potential problem is that we might just be transferring the battle to another arena, as was the case early in the history of zoning when racially exclusive zones were ruled unconstitutional. They were quickly replaced by restrictive covenants.

Finally, the Supreme Court might not allow use zoning. The limits of local power over zoning are beyond those of legal visibility at the moment. Although it appears that a community has the power to downzone, just how far that power extends has not been firmly decided. On the other hand, Supreme Courts, as we have learned to our sadness over the past few years, do change and one should not based future policy solely on the current opinions of a group of aged troglodytes.

What if we want to change?

In addition, use zoning presents some of the same problems that exist in the current system. What, for example, if we want to change things?

Take the case of Takoma Park, Maryland. Ten years ago, the county in which Takoma Park is located ruled that landlords who had turned their homes into apartments had to restore them to single-family dwellings by this month. Well, the ten years are up and some one thousand tenants are on the verge of eviction. They are protesting and the county may relent, but why did this situation have to arise in the first place? Because of a rigid and counter-productive zoning code that attempted to enforce upon Takoma Park a physical vision that some in the town not only didn't have, but willingly violated the law to avoid.

In some of the classiest neighborhoods of Washington illegal granny flats abound as social custom thumbs its nose at the planners. Yet, unlike Takoma Park, DC has fortunately looked the other way, recognizing implicitly the conflict between what the zoning laws and common sense have to say.

In fact, there is probably no quicker, cheaper and less disruptive way to provide adequate housing in American cities than to permit the flourishing of granny flats. They would reverse the excessive homogenization of neighborhoods and permit lower income residents, both tenant and owner, access to better quality housing, with the tenants finding apartments more abundant and the owners having their housing costs partially subsidized.

But because of our unquestioning acceptance of principles laid down decades ago by a generation of planners who had an almost pathological distaste for human and economic variety, we find ourselves unable even to raise the question as a political issue. Thanks to the unusual circumstances of the Takoma Park situation, there was large enough mass of aggrieved to draw some attention to the matter, but even in this case it has been treated as a strictly local affair, rather than an incident that raises questions of broad public policy.

Yet another example of the heavy burden of zoning can be found in the disappearance of neighborhood businesses. For ten years I lived in a neighborhood that was blessed with an

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abundance of corner mom and pop stores. Over that decade, the local homogenizers (led, significantly, by community real estate interests and aided immensely by zoning) eliminated most of these shops to the considerable detriment of the neighborhood. There are many questions to be raised about where and what sort of businesses one wants in a residential neighborhood but they will not be answered by continued acceptance of rigid rules that say no when they should say maybe, or say none when they should say a few.

It is clear, in any case, that zoning currently serves as a serious economic depressant because it tends to restrict where one may start and run a business, even to the extent of limiting benign home occupations.

The two cases cited might just as easily occurred under current use zoning as under the present system and they suggest both the complexity and the importance of the issue, an issue we have treated by *massive avoidance.*

The way we organize our neighborhoods is not set in stone. Go back to the early part of the century and you would see quite a different urban pattern. You would find lower income residents holding on to their homes or leases by taking in boarders in a manner upon which modern cities would frown. You would find shops and residents mixed more randomly and closely.

In the decades that followed, encouraged by planning 'experts,' we homogenized our neighborhoods, separating class from class, race from race, work from home (and as a consequence, until recently, men from women), and shops from residences. We have paid for this splintering of use in many ways.

As just one small example, a few years ago we had a rash of daylight break-ins in our neighborhood. In examining the situation, it was discovered that there were whole blocks without a person home during the workday, a stunning invitation to crime.

There are strong economic and social reasons to change our attitudes toward neighborhood zoning. We need not only more jobs but more places where jobs can be. There is not a city in the country that has a housing program that is as effective as would be a relaxation of neighborhood housing codes. We complain about the safety of our neighborhoods and then desert them for much of the day. We want more economic opportunities for minorities and women but we won't let them work at home. Worst, we don't even talk about it.

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REVIEW INDEX

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In part this is because zoning brings us as close to political schizophrenia as any issue in the country. Our attitude varies by our ownership and proximity to the property involved. We have dealt with the problem by turning it over to 'experts,' the city planners who repeatedly start with the implicit assumption that the current population, whether residential or commercial, is expendable.

With anal arrogance, they impose a sterile order oblivious to either the economic needs or the social desires of those who actually inhabit the place. The citizens, if they react, do so belatedly, underfunded and understaffed, facing divisions of lawyers, technical experts and professionals with inside access.

It is small wonder that their reaction so often seems that of petty hoarding rather than speaking to the simple justice of being left in peace.

And it is not surprising that they are so exhausted by their local battles that they fail to appreciate the degree to which the zoning system has been weighted against them.

Corrupt, cruel and inefficient

Yet the battle which is really worth fighting would be one against that system. It is a system that is at its core corrupt because of its arbitrary grants of enormous potential profit to a handful at public expense. It is monopolistic, because it tends to transfer land from the hands of the many to the hands of the few. It is economically inefficient because it, in effect subsidizes developments that would not otherwise thrive. And it is

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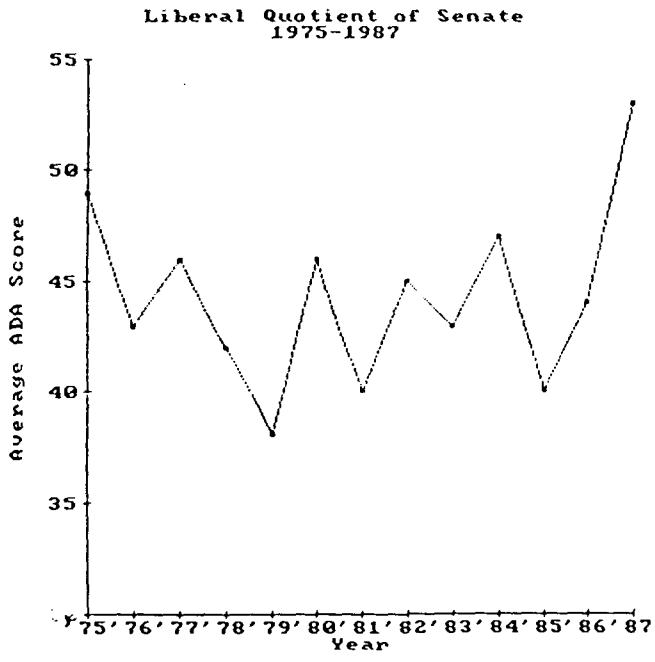
socially cruel because it disrupts the natural order of the community.

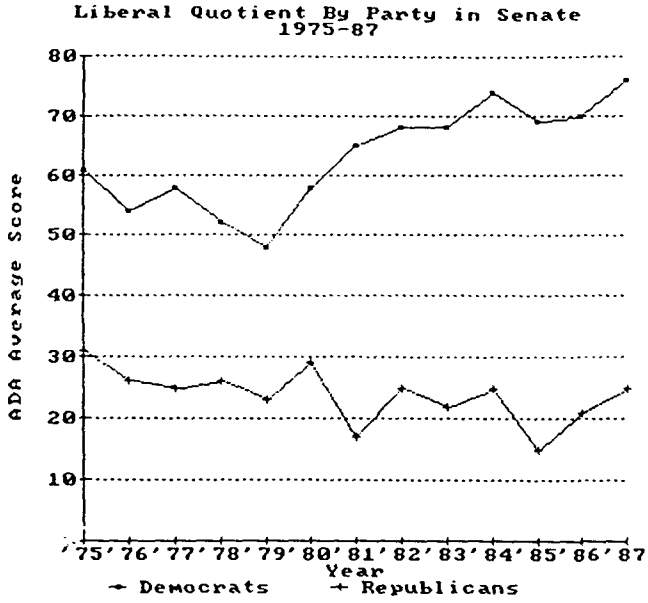
In the fight against this corruption, monopolization, inefficiency and cruelty, ideas like use zoning can play a role, even if as a transitory measure, in the manner of a moratorium. During such a moratorium, a community, or each neighborhood within a city, could come up with its own plan of what it wants to keep and what it wants to change. Absent evidence of social or racial exclusion, or of a refusal to share in providing needed community-wide facilities, that plan should become the basis for whatever zoning regulations there are. As Jane Jacobs put it: "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

Congress turns left

The latest ADA congressional voting record shows a marked shift in the politics of the Hill towards the left. The average scores for members of both houses last year was the highest in decades. In the south, for example, the five freshmen senators were rated at 71% in 1987 compared to a 9% score for their predecessors in 1986. The rating, based on about two dozen key votes, is a standard measure of the liberal-conservative split in Congress.

Last year fifteen Republican senators scored 0%. This year only five did. Senate committee chairs scored an average of 71%.





The 18 Democrats up for election in 1988 had an average score of 80% compared with the 15 Republicans who are running, who had an average of only 35%.

The voting record also illustrates the lack of a liberal or moderate wing of the Republican Party. Only 12% of GOP members of Congress scored higher than 40%. Meanwhile, 78% of the Democrats scored higher than 60%.

Four senators scored 100% this year: Metzenbaum, Mikulski, Riegle and Sarbanes.

In the House, the following scored 100%:

Brennan, DeFazio, Dellums, Edwards, Evans, Frank, Garcia, Hayes, Jontz, Kastenmeier, Mfume, Obey, Owens, Sabo, Savage, Studds, Vento, Wheat, Williams.

Eliott Ness, come back

Back in the old witch-hunting days the federal subversion fetishists had a wonderful designation for members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; they were called *premature anti-fascists.*

That the government's ability to deal with the nuances of dissent has not improved much since those days has been amply demonstrated in the past few weeks as a number of contemporary examples of FBI bungling have come to light.

There have been proper expressions of horror from the left and from civil libertarians but in truth what is most striking in these latest examples is not the venality involved, but the incompetence. Consider these excerpts from two memos. The first was written on November 25, 1970 by J. Edgar Hoover to his various top flunkies. It was written, incidentally, at 4:32 pm, which will give you an idea how far the FBI's interest in irrelevant information extends:

Honorable H.R. Haldeman, Assistant to the President called. He stated the

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President wanted him to ask... for a run down on the homosexuals known and suspected in the Washington press corps. I said I thought we have some of that material. Mr Haldeman mentioned (deleted) and some of the others rumored generally to be and also whether we had any other stuff that he, the President, has an interest in. . .

Now this is the real stuff in full court press. But come now to the 1980s, to the era of institutional entropy, and we find this thrilling memo from the Pittsburgh FBI office on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador:

Some of the younger `affiliate' members appear to be politically unsophisticated in that they know little of internationally (sic) current events save what they read or hear at their political meetings. Pittsburgh has noted at least two of these members or affiliates both were young females.

At a time of runaway deficits, we're paying Pittsburgh to tell us that? To be sure, not all FBI offices limited themselves to such keen observations. New Orleans, in fact, wrote that "It is imperative at this time to formulate some plan of attack against CISPES."

But New Orleans appears to have been fighting a somewhat quixotic cause. Its efforts were being undermined by Denver which wrote that "in spite of attempts by the bureau to clarify guidelines and goals" it was "not sure of how much seemingly legitimate political activity can be monitored." And Phoenix even went so far as to close down its investigation of a human rights group and had to be ordered back in the saddle by Washington on the grounds that the group might be "a front organization for CISPES."

It would appear that the headquarters interest in CISPES was in no small part spurred by one Agustin Martinez Varela, who was -- god, they're everywhere, an evangelist preacher who had hawked salvation in El Salvador before moving to the US and becoming a US citizen with the aid of the FBI. In 1981, according to a recent New York Times story that lovingly reviewed the documents in the case, he became an informer for the Dallas office under the name of Frank Varelli.

Varelli now says the bureau got him to fabricate stories about CISPES to justify a full-blown inquiry, although some suspect he may have been free-lancing his own imagination. He even dreamed up an assassination plot against Reagan.

Varelli now claims, "Not once did I find, see, hear or observe any illegal conduct of any nature. The organization was entirely lawful and contained many religious people."

Looked at kindly, the FBI may have found itself faced with the same problem the American voter has with Richard Gephardt: which of his statements does one believe?

Looked at less kindly, one may ask why this organization of highly-trained professional sleuths got messed up with an itinerant evangelist in the first place? As Rep. Don Edwards, himself a former FBI agent, put it: "If they were taking his information as reliable they ought to be retrained."

In any case, the relationship came to an end when Varelli's superior returned to his car after taking a walk with Varelli along the Potomac River. The real terrorists, genuine card-carrying Washington hoods, had struck, breaking into the vehicle and stealing the FBI agent's badge, gun and CISPES files. Two months later, the agent had resigned from the force and a year later Dallas was getting bored with CISPES, complaining that the local chapter "is not active

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INFILTRATE MEETINGS. SPY ON CAMPUSES. GET NAMES & LICENSE NUMBERS. CIRCULATE PHOTOS. BUILD DOSSIERS. TAP PHONES...
WHAT ARE THEY SUSPECTED OF?
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enough to provide insight into CISPES activities nationwide."

When Varelli broke cover with his revised version of CISPES, agents around the country sent Dallas newsclips to which the bureau replied petulantly, "Dallas requests that no additional copies be forwarded to Dallas inasmuch as sufficient copies are currently on hand."

All this foolishness took place while William Webster was head of the FBI. Webster has since moved to that behemoth of the bizarre, that penultimate oxymoron, the Central Intelligence Agency, where he treads in the giant footsteps of William Casey and George Bush. God knows (althought we won't) what intricate disasters he is planning there.

Meanwhile, the new director, William Sessions, has admitted that the CISPES probe "was not properly directed" and one of his key aides confesses that it may have gone over the line. Once again, official Washington responds to the atrocious by recasting it in the blandest possible rhetoric. There is nothing that goes wrong in our nation's capital that cannot ultimately be handled by simply calling it a "management problem." Even the Israelis have gotten hip to the concept, officially dubbing the breaking of bones of Palestinian civilians "inappropriate."

In fact, the management problem at the FBI goes back decades and continues to this day. This after all, is the agency that is supposed to enforce, among other things, civil rights laws and can't even keep its own agents from sending death threats to a black colleague. This is the agency that was so ignorant of basic legal concepts that it sent plants into Ohio courtrooms to perjure themselves in order to catch -- again without success, a few judges suspected of corruption.

In one of its most recent excesses, the bureau has asked librarians to report the names of foreign students who use certain books or databases, as part of its 'Library Awareness Program.' Says Jaia Barrett of the Association of Research Libraries, "What's the next step? Classifying road maps because they show where bridges are for terrorists to blow up?"

In yet another continuing abuse, the FBI is using right-wing groups to monitor student dissent on campus. In a sense, the FBI is getting around the laws prohibiting it from spying on political groups the same way the Ollie North crowd did: by setting up a private network. Not only have these right-wing groups been spying on CISPES on campus, United Campuses Against Nuclear War has been targeted as well.

One excuse dredged up for investigating CISPES was its suspected ties to the US Communist Party. The FBI must be the only organization in either the Free West or the Enslaved East that still believes the US Communist Party is a threat to anything other than the reputation of communism as a major political force in the world.

In fact, most of the people in America who have opposed our involvement in Central America have neither been involved in nor inspired by CISPES, for the simple reason that the conspiracy against what the Reagan administration and the FBI thought was patriotic behavior was far broader than the gumshoes seem to have realized. According to the polls, it includes a majority of the American people. That's a lot of suspects for the FBI to watch.

WEATHER REPORT

President Reagan has named 367 judges to the federal courts. Of these 31 were women, 14 were latino, six were black and two were Asian.

If you're looking for root causes of homelessness, try this out for size. Between 1980 and 1987, federal funding for low-income housing dropped 78%. According to the Jobs with Peace campaign, which has launched a campaign to build homes not bombs, home ownership has dropped for the first time in forty years. The decline is especially severe for younger people. Only one out of ten families can afford the average home.

Matthew Goodman reports in Z, a new magazine of progressive politics and arts, that Bill 'The Spaceman' Lee is running for president on the Rhinoceros ticket, with Dr. Hunter Thompson holding down the second spot. Lee, a former Redsox pitcher, has come out against guns *and* butter on the grounds that "both will kill you." Asked about mandatory drug testing, Lee said, "Well, I've tried pretty much all of 'em but I'm not sure I'd want to make them mandatory."

Maine has become the first state to ban the sale of irradiated foods. Debate centered on health hazards as well as doubts about the quality of federal government testing.

According to Cass Peterson in the *Washington Post*, that planned nuclear dump in Nevada will contain in its early years

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300,000 times the amount of radioactive material as has been released into the atmosphere in all above-ground nuclear tests. Peterson described the problem facing those building the dump: "Predict the future with enough certainty to know whether the mountain can safely contain more radioactivity than has ever been in one place at one time and still remain intact longer than recorded history."

The wimp of the month award goes -- no not to George Bush, but to the Washington chapter of the League of Women Voters, which refused to participate in a voter registration drive at local concerts of Frank Zappa. Said chapter president Leona Rumsey, "We don't know about (Zappa's) politics....one we step over too far in being partisan there's trouble." Zappa claims to have registered more than a thousand people at various concerts.

A long environmental battle appears to have been won with the announcement that the Energy Department will not restart its reactor at Hanford, Washington. Closed down for safety reasons, the Energy Department now says other sources can meet the military's plutonium needs. This, however, after spending $50 million in repairs.

LETTERS

DC Gazette. . .

Mary and I think you are right to cease writing the DC Gazette. For a time I really cared about DC, and worked hard on causes of problems, but thanks to such BTOs as Marion Barry, I lost hope. With the end of the DC Gazette drain, may the Progressive Review thrive --*GAC, Takoma Park, Md.*

It is unfortunate that you are going to kill the DC Gazette without a hearing, or even giving it its day in the court of public opinion. Your only reason for doing so is that you have become enamored with a sweet young thing, the Progressive Review, just as other men of your age (50), have divorced their wives and taken up with a sexier younger woman. -- *GF, Washington DC*

Write and publish what you will, i.e. what you enjoy, so long as we are included on the subscription list. -- *AR, Washington DC.*

Michael Deaver reports in his new book, *Behind the Scenes,* that he went to wake Ronald Reagan up shortly before 9 am on the morning of his inauguration. He told the president-to-be, "It's nine o'clock." "Yeah?" replied Reagan. "Well, you're going to be inaugurated in two hours." Said the president-elect: "Does that mean I have to get up?"

UCLA has officially recognized Lamba Delta Lamba, the first lesbian sorority to achieve this status.

Three lesbians surprised Britain's House of Lords last month when they reacted to a just-passed anti-gay vote by sliding down ropes into the House chamber, while colleagues in the gallery shouted, "We're gay and we're proud." Said Stuart Braham, authority on the House of Lords, "It is absolutely unprecedented."

The San Ramon, California, city council has passed a law that will require developers to pay for child-care at area schools. The measure requires developers to allocate $210 per housing unit or ten cents per square foot of new commercial space. Some builders were won over by the point that the child-care provision would help boost housing sales in the town.

Twenty-two volumes of the papers of Judith Sargent Murray, one of the nation's first feminists, are being microfilmed and preserved thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Murray, who lived from 1751 to 1820, had extensive correspondence with public figures of the time and wrote often about women and their problems. Her papers were in such bad shape that historians haven't been able to use them. They are stored at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Barney Frank, the Massachusetts congressmember who revealed his homosexuality last year, is apparently not hurting as a result. He raised twice as much money in 1987 as he did in his last non-election year, 1985. Besides, the GOP is having a hard time finding someone to run against him.

California has started putting into effect legislation to provide warnings of the toxic effect of various consumer items -- from gasoline to microchips. The measure, passed as a referendum in 1986, also puts the burden on companies to prove that their products are safe and provides a bounty equal to 25% of fines to anyone who successfully sues violators.

Hundreds of students showed up for a national convention last month at Rutgers in an attempt to create a neo-New Left.

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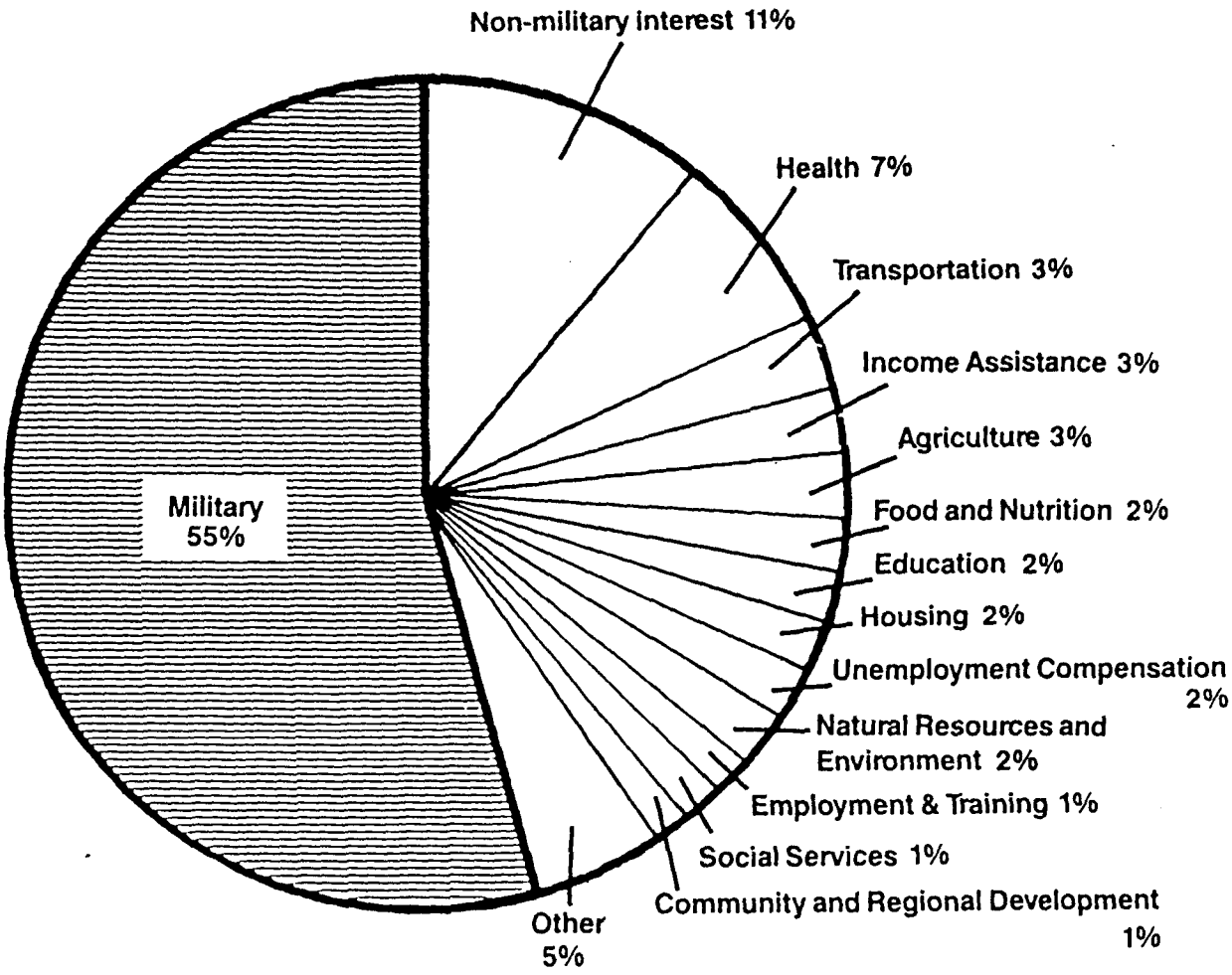
Where your federal income tax goes



This "pie chart" reflects the true division of your 1987 federal income tax dollar.

This division looks different than the government's for two reasons:

1. Many military-related costs which are usually kept in separate categories are combined here to reflect the costs of total military spending. These costs include the National Defense Function 050 (37%), military related interest on the debt (13%), veterans (3%), and International Securities Assistance (1%).

2. Revenue from Trust Funds, such as Social Security, has been excluded from the calculation because these are paid for by taxes separate from the income tax.

Source: Calculations based on data contained in FY 1987 Budget of the U.S. Government and FY 1987 Mid-Session Review of the Budget, Office of Management and Budget; Military Spending Research Services.

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The meeting, however, ended on a inconclusive note following agreement to the demands of minority delegates for more outreach to nonwhite lefties. Said one of the organizers, "Sure, it's hard but we knew that all along. It'll happen." Stay tuned.

Allen Perry is the director of a Liverpool drug clinic who is doing what US officials should be doing: giving out free syringes to drug addicts as a means of reducing the danger of AIDS transmission. Perry, who has been in the US to discuss the Liverpool approach with American officials, told the New York Times: "AIDS has exposed the failure of drug policy." His clinic, which has 900 addicted patients, costs less to operate annually than the British government spends to treat one AIDS patient.

Field Notes

Conference of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists. Apr 21-24 in Atlanta. *Keynote speaker, Sam Nujoma,* president of SWAPO. Info: 202-462-8197.

Children's Defense Fund has launched a campaign to encourage all candidates to elective office to register publicly their positions on children and families. CDF has prepared a public education kit that includes two booklets: *What Every American Should Be Asking Political Leaders in 1988* and *A Briefing Book on the Status of American Children in 1988.* The briefing book contains useful state-by-state data. CDF has also come up with a nice poster showing a candidate kissing a grim looking baby with the caption: *Don't you wish politicians cared as much about children after they're elected?* The kit is free from CDF, 122 C NW, DC 20001 (202-628-8787)

Anarchy describes itself as the only major anti-ideological journal in North America. "We say no to all religion, all political ideology -- no to the nation-state, no to God, no to nationalism, no to militarism and hierarchy." You can get six issues for $3 from the Columbia anarchist League POB 380, Columbia Mo. 65205.

Farmland, A Community Issue is a 22-page survey of farmland issues and the status of sustainable agriculture. Copies are $3 from Concern Inc, 1794 Columbia Rd. NW, DC 20009.

International Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Systems, sponsored by several state universities, will be held Sept 20-23 in Columbus Ohio. Info: Dr. Clive Edwards, Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. 43210

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation is seeking applicants for its 1988 Congressional Black Fellows Program. Fellows serve for a nine-month period for the 1988-89 academic year and are paid $15,000. To be eligible applicants must be minority full or part-time graduate students, college faculty members or professionals with five or more years of experience. Deadline: April 30. Call 202-543-8767 or write Fellows, 1004 Penna Ave SE, DC 20003

Worldwatch Institute has published its annual State of the World report in which it says that it will take $150 billion a year to reverse the declining environment and move towards sustainable economic growth. The report is $18.95 in hardback and $9.95 in softback from 1776 Mass Ave NW, DC 20036.

United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War will be holding spring action events in Washington April 14-16. Fifth annual Lobby Day, mary and rally, leadership training program. Housing provided. Info: UCAM, 309 Penna. Ave SE, DC 20003. (202-543-1505)

DC Notes

Potomac Valley Grassroots Network is a Washington area Green group that is

Nerve gas as neighbor

The Army has released its latest list of nerve gas contractors. The new list shows an increase of six more laboratories that work on nerve gas over the last report, which was for 1984.

The original list of labs doing research with chemical warfare agents was pried out of the Army by Cambridge Toxic Alert, which learned that Arthur D. Little Inc. was doing nerve gas research in their town. After a two-year struggle, the group was able to have such research banned from the city limits and the ban was upheld by the state supreme court.

Other community groups have since joined the battle, the most prominent being in Gaithersburg, Md., where Geomet Technologies was doing nerve gas research in a residential neighborhood.

A large proportion of the CW agents being used by contractors are nerve agents: liquids which when dispersed as aerosols become nerve gases. According to Army documents, inhaling or physical contact with any of these chemicals can produce the following:

"The symptoms, in normal order of appearance, are: runny nose, tightness of chest, dimness of vision and pinpointing of the pupils, difficulty in breathing, drooling and excessive sweating, nausea, vomiting, cramps, involuntary defecation and urination, twitching, coma, and death." --*RECON*

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becoming more active. Projects include waste management issues (Larry Martin, 667-4659), cosponsoring a Maryland peace and justice conference in May (Nick Maravell, 983-2167) and cosponsoring an economics conference tentatively scheduled for this spring with The Other Economic Summit and the Union of Radical Economists (Phil Hill, 667-4659). Info: PVGN, 1445 Harvard St. NW, DC 20009.

An introduction to nonviolence and social change, every Monday night, thru Apr. 4, 630-830 pm, at the King Library, 901 G NW, room 221. No charge. Sponsored by the Washington Peace Center. Register by calling 234-2000.

Publishers of the Washington Women's Yellow Pages announce the first annual cover design competition. $100 cash prize to winning design which will be used on the cover of all 25,000 copies. Closing date: April 10. Call Teressa Ellis at 703-548-1333 for rules, mechanical and copy specifications.

Homeless in America: a photographic exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington through April 10.

Tom Chorlton, local gay activist, has announced his candidacy on the Statehood Party ticket for city council at-large. Info: 1742 Mass Ave. SE DC 20003 (547-3104)

Womens Action for Good Employment Standards (WAGES) has elected Sally Boarman as its new president. WAGES works to help victims of sexual harassment and to eliminate harassment in the workplace. Info: WAGES, PO Box 572, DC 20044 (265-7303)

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